

Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee

Meeting Dates:	January 28, 2009 February 25, 2009 March 11, 2009	Review and Action Plan	Follow-up
Dash Board Items/ Studies:	<u>January 28, 2009</u> <u>Permanency For Children</u>	<p><u>January 28, 2009</u></p> <p><i>This committee continues to review/discuss practice and policies in order to make recommendations for ways to obtain permanency for children.</i></p> <p><i>*Northern Region Vision Statement: A nurturing, safe and permanent family for every child.</i></p> <p><i>*Written Information from Julie Lund - Attorney:</i></p> <p>-The legal issues surrounding searches is confidentiality of information. In order to search the databases they would need to have personal information about the child. That information is protected by statute and cannot be shared with the public.</p> <p>-Any confidentiality agreement with the committee members would not be enforceable as they are volunteers.</p> <p>....It is a slippery slope. Once the information has been shared it is impossible to control where it goes next and how it is used.</p> <p>...Julie will attend this meeting next month.</p> <p><i>Committee members were asked to come with questions to ask Julie at the next meeting.</i></p> <p>-Search Resources: Handout. This list is used by a DCFS employee that is trying to</p>	<p><u>February 25, 2009</u></p> <p>Julie Lund and Susan Eisenman, attorneys for the state, attended the meeting this month to discuss the legal issues surrounding searches for kin for youth placed in state's custody. From a legal standpoint, there are many confidentiality issues with non-DCFS people (QI members) gathering that information. They further explained that there are many rules/requirements regarding the CAPTA grant as well as many state and federal law requirements that need to be followed. Other ideas regarding locating kin were discussed... writing a grant to pay for an FTE so that person could conduct the searches, provide more training to foster parents so they can help youth place in their homes search for kin, the QI committee create a questionnaire for the older youth to fill out with</p>

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	QCR Participation <u>March 11, 2009</u>	<u>March 11, 2009</u> No formal meeting. Met with Kevin Jackson, from the Office of Services Review, as part of the Quality Case Review process. During this meeting there was discussion to determine what's working for this committee, what's not, committee members offered suggestions and discussed possible opportunities for practice improvement. Members of this committee feel that DCFS is more transparent than perceived...which is a good thing. The Permanency Committee will be starting again with three non DCFS members of the QI committee serving on it. Some barriers to services to families that were identified were funding, caseload sizes, policies/laws that sometimes stand in the way of the hard decisions that are made at the beginning of a case and licensing guidelines are barriers at times.	
Fatality Review:	None.		
Other Business:	Priority Focus Areas <u>February 25, 2009</u> Recruiting New Committee Members	<u>February 25, 2009</u> Discussion surrounding recruitment of new members. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Run an advertisement in the local newspaper asking for community members who may be interested in joining the committee.	<u>March 11, 2009</u> Sally Jones will invite a reporter to our April meeting. Daryl will contact former foster care youth and invite her to attend.

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Recruiting a member from a clergy group to be part of the committee. 3. Post an announcement with the Chamber of Commerce. 4. Partner with Guardian ad Litem Office to look at using CASA volunteers if possible 5. Invite a different DCFS worker to attend the meeting each month to provide input and suggestions 	Brenda will talk with Jeanne Godfrey about having someone from Inner Faith Council join the committee.